

- B3
28. (Once amended) A gas purification apparatus comprising:
- a) a housing body defined by a first and second essentially cylindrical shells connected in a sealed and removable manner in correspondence with their axial end portion to a head closure member interposed therebetween, said first and second shells defining a lower internal chamber and upper internal chamber within said housing, wherein said head closure member having formed therethrough a feed gas inlet port in a first end of said head closure member and an outlet port in a second end of said head closure member, and at least one gas transfer conduit in fluid communication with said upper and lower internal chambers,
 - b) a gas filtration element adopted to separate suspended matter from incoming gas passing therethrough disposed in said lower chamber and,
 - c) a hollow fiber membrane cartridge adopted to separate water vapor from incoming gas passing therethrough disposed in said upper chamber wherein said filtration element and said hollow fiber membrane cartridge are disposed around a common longitudinal axis within said housing body, said axis being essentially concentric to said housing body.

REMARKS

New claim 34 is supported at least at paragraph 28 of the specification.

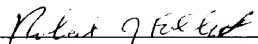
The amendments to claims 1 and 28 are supported at least at paragraph 20 of the specification.

It is submitted that no new matter has been added.

D-21126

If the Examiner has any questions with respect to the amendments, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert J. Follett
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 39566

Danbury, CT 06810-5113
Dated: March 12, 2003
Attorney Ref.: D-21126



MARKED AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (Once amended) A gas purification process comprising:
 a) passing a feed gas stream containing water vapor through at least one filtration element adopted to ~~suspended matter separate liquid and solid particulates~~ from said incoming feed gas passing therethrough,
 b) contacting the filtered feed gas with a multiplicity of hollow fiber membranes contained in a cartridge,
 c) permeating a portion of the water vapor contained in the feed gas stream through the membranes, and
 d) recovering the main remaining nonpermeate dehydrated and filtered gas stream wherein said filtration element and said hollow fiber membrane cartridge are disposed around a common longitudinal axis and are enclosed in a common casing.

28. (Once amended) A gas purification apparatus comprising:
 d) a housing body defined by a first and second essentially cylindrical shells connected in a sealed and removable manner in correspondence with their axial end portion to a head closure member interposed therebetween, said first and second shells defining a lower internal chamber and upper internal chamber within said housing, wherein said head closure member having formed therethrough a feed gas inlet port in a first end of said head closure member and an outlet port in a second end of said head closure member, and at least one gas transfer conduit in fluid communication with said upper and lower internal chambers,
 e) a gas filtration element adopted to separate suspended matter ~~liquid and solid particles~~ from incoming gas passing therethrough disposed in said lower chamber and,
 c) a hollow fiber membrane cartridge adopted to separate water vapor from incoming gas passing therethrough disposed in said upper chamber wherein said filtration element and said hollow fiber membrane cartridge are disposed around a common longitudinal axis within said housing body, said axis being essentially concentric to said housing body.